

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for providing guidance to users for finding media comprising:

providing indicators of media groups available to a user wherein the media groups indicate media available to the user without indicating the content, title, or source of the media;

providing a plurality of media indicators associated with a media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media indicators associated with the media group wherein the media associated with the media group is provided by a plurality of different media sources; and

performing an action on one or more of the plurality of media sources in response to a user indicating a desire to access the media.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the action comprises obtaining one or more of the plurality of media sources in response to a user indicating a desire to access the media.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising indicating the number of media titles that are associated with a media group.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of groups comprise user-defined groups.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the user-defined groups comprise media indicators that meet user-defined criteria.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the user-defined criteria is a user-defined search.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of media groups comprise a recent favorites media group, an old favorites media group, a recommendations media group, a browsing media group, a special interest media group, a categories media group, or a preview scan media group.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the recommendations group comprises media titles that are editorially recommended.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the recommendations group comprises media titles that are promotional media titles.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

displaying a plurality of media titles associated with the browsing media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the browsing media group; and

displaying in a video window video content corresponding to a media title associated with

the browsing media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access the media title associated with the browsing media group.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the video content is currently available media content.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the video content is a video clip.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the video content is a video trailer.

14. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

displaying a plurality of sub-groups associated with the categories media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access sub-groups associated with the categories media group; and

displaying a plurality of media titles associated with a sub-group associated with the categories media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with a sub-group associated with the categories media group.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising indicating the number of media titles that are associated with a sub-group.

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16. The method of claim 14, wherein the sub-groups comprise a sports sub-group, a popular shows sub-group, a premiers sub-group, and a group sub-group.

17. The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a plurality of media titles associated with the preview scan media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the preview scan media group; and

displaying in a video window video content corresponding to a media title associated with the preview scan media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access video content associated with the preview scan media group.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining media from one or more of the plurality of media sources comprises obtaining media from a local file server, a remote file server, a pre-recorded videotape, a television station or an audio station.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

displaying a plurality of media sub-groups associated with a group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media sub-groups associated with the media group.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the media sub-groups indicate media available to the user

by indicating the content, title, or source of the media.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of displaying a plurality of media titles associated with a media sub-group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the media sub-group, wherein the media titles are for media content defined by a plurality of distribution systems.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of media groups comprise a source sub-group, a ratings sub-group, or a categories sub-group.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the sub-groups associated with the source media group comprise a live programs sub-group, a personal video library sub-group, or a video on demand sub-group.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the sub-groups associated with the Categories media group comprise a sports sub-group, a popular shows sub-group, a premiers sub-group, and a games sub-group.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the sub-groups associated with the Ratings media group comprise a five-star sub-group, a four-star sub-group, a three-star sub-group, a two-star sub-group, and a one-star sub-group.

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27. The method of claim 19, wherein the media sub-groups are displayed according to criteria defined by a remote service.

29. A system for providing guidance to users for finding media provided by a plurality of different media sources comprising:

means for providing a plurality of media indicators associated with a media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media indicators associated with the media group wherein the media associated with the media group is provided by a plurality of different media sources; and

30. The system of claim 29, further comprising means for indicating the number of media titles that are associated with a media group.

31. The system of claim 29, wherein the plurality of media groups comprise a recent favorites media group, an old favorites media group, a recommendations media group, a browsing media group, a special interest media group, a categories media group, and a preview scan media group.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the plurality of groups comprise user-defined groups.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein, the user-defined groups comprise media indicators that meet user-defined criteria.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the user-defined criteria is a user-defined search.

35. The system of claim 31, wherein the recommendations group comprises media titles that are editorially recommended.

36. The system of claim 31, wherein the recommendations group comprises media titles that are promotional media titles.

37. The system of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

means for displaying a plurality of media titles associated with the browsing media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the browsing media group; and

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means for displaying in a video window video content corresponding to a media title associated with the browsing media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access the media title associated with the browsing media group.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the video content is currently available media content.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein the video content is a video clip.

40. The system of claim 37, wherein the video content is a video trailer.

41. The system of claim 31, further comprising:

means for displaying a plurality of sub-groups associated with the categories media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access sub-groups associated with the categories media group; and

means for displaying a plurality of media titles associated with a sub-group associated with the categories media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with a sub-group associated with the categories media group.

42. The system of claim 41, further comprising means for indicating the number of media titles that are associated with a sub-group.

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43. The system of claim 41, wherein the sub-groups comprise a sports sub-group, a popular shows sub-group, a premiers sub-group, or a group sub-group.

44. The system of claim 31, further comprising:

means for displaying a plurality of media titles associated with the preview scan media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the preview scan media group; and

means for displaying in a video window video content corresponding to a media title associated with the preview scan media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access the video content associated with the preview scan media group.

45. The system of claim 29, wherein the means for obtaining one or more of the plurality of media sources comprises means for obtaining media from a local file server, a remote file server, a pre-recorded videotape, or a television broadcast station.

46. The system of claim 29, further comprising means for displaying a plurality of media sub-groups associated with a group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media sub-groups associated with the media group.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein the media sub-groups indicate media available to the user

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by indicating the content, title or source of the media.

48. The system of claim 46, further comprising means for displaying a plurality of media titles associated with a media sub-group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the media sub-group, wherein the media titles are for media content defined by a plurality of distribution systems.

49. The system of claim 48, wherein the plurality of media groups comprise a source sub-group, a ratings sub-group, or a categories sub-group.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein the sub-groups associated with the source media group comprise a live programs sub-group, a personal video library sub-group, or a video on demand sub-group.

51. The system of claim 49, wherein the sub-groups associated with the Categories media group comprise a sports sub-group, a popular shows sub-group, a premiers sub-group, or a games sub-group.

52. The system of claim 49, wherein the sub-groups associated with the Ratings media group comprise a five-star sub-group, a four-star sub-group, a three-star sub-group, a two-star sub-group, or a one-star sub-group.

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54. The system of claim 46, wherein the media sub-groups are displayed according to criteria defined by a remote service.

56. An interactive media guide comprising:  
a video display adapter,  
a microprocessor programmed to:

direct the video display adapter to display a plurality of media indicators associated with a media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media indicators associated with the media group wherein the media associated with the media group is provided by a plurality of different media sources; and

57. The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to direct the

video display adapter to display an indication of the number of media titles that are associated with a media group.

58. The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the plurality of media groups comprise a recent favorites media group, an old favorites media group, a recommendations media group, a browsing media group, a special interest media group, a categories media group, or a preview scan media group.

59. The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the plurality of groups comprise user-defined groups.

60. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the user-defined groups comprise media indicators that meet user-defined criteria.

61. The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the user-defined criteria is a user-defined search.

62. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the recommendations group comprises media titles that are editorially recommended.

63. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the recommendations group comprises media titles that are promotional media titles.

64. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to:

direct the video display adapter to display a plurality of media titles associated with the browsing media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the browsing media group; and

direct the video display adapter to display in a video window video content corresponding to a media title associated with the browsing media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access the media title associated with the browsing media group.

65. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the video content is currently available media content.

66. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the video content is a video clip.

67. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the video content is a video trailer.

68. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to:

direct the video display adapter to display a plurality of sub-groups associated with the categories media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access sub-groups associated with the categories media group; and

direct the video display adapter to display a plurality of media titles associated with a sub-group associated with the categories media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media

titles associated with the sub-group associated with the categories media group.

69. The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to direct the video display adapter to display an indication of the number of media titles that are associated with a sub-group.

70. The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the sub-groups comprise a sports sub-group, a popular shows sub-group, a premiers sub-group, or a group sub-group.

71. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to:

direct the video display adapter to display a plurality of media titles associated with the preview scan media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the preview scan media group; and

direct the video display adapter to display a video window video content corresponding to a media title associated with the preview scan media group in response to a user indicating a desire to access the video content associated with the preview scan media group.

72. The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the microprocessor is programmed to obtain media from a local file server, a remote file server, a pre-recorded videotape, or a television broadcast station.

73. The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to:

direct the video display adapter to display a plurality of media sub-groups associated with a group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media sub-groups associated with the media group.

74. The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the media sub-groups indicate media available to the user by indicating the content, title, or source of the media.

75. The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to display a plurality of media titles associated with a media sub-group in response to a user indicating a desire to access media titles associated with the media sub-group, wherein the media titles are for media content defined by a plurality of distribution systems.

76. The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the plurality of media groups comprise a source sub-group, a ratings sub-group, or a categories sub-group.

77. The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the sub-groups associated with the source media group comprise a live programs sub-group, a personal video library sub-group, or a video on demand sub-group.

78. The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the sub-groups associated with the Categories media group

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comprise a sports sub-group, a popular shows sub-group, a premiers sub-group, or a games sub-group.

79. The apparatus of claim 71, wherein the sub-groups associated with the Ratings media group comprise a five-star sub-group, a four-star sub-group, a three-star sub-group, a two-star sub-group, or a one-star sub-group.

80. The apparatus of claim 69, wherein the media sub-groups are displayed according to user preferences.

81. The apparatus of claim 69, wherein the media sub-groups are displayed according to criteria defined by a remote service.

82. The apparatus of claim 69, wherein the media sub-groups are created dynamically.

83. A method comprising:  
providing a user the opportunity to select media listings displayed by time; and  
displaying a single list of media that includes media that are scheduled by time and includes media that are available but are without a scheduled time in response to the selecting.